

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	25X1
SUBJECT	Arming of Soviet Merchant Vessels	DATE DISTR.	29 March 1954
25X1		NO. OF PAGES	1
		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	613935

25X1  
25X1

1. Soviet and Satellite ships which are equipped with gun platforms and other military equipment carry the necessary arms and munitions in their holds. The arms and munitions are packed in crates and cases which are camouflaged as commercial goods.
2. These armaments are carried so that, in the event of unexpected conflict, crews of Soviet ships which are in enemy waters or in enemy ports will be able to defend themselves and to do damage. If necessary, they will also be capable of scuttling their own ships.
3. The crates and cases containing the arms and munitions are occasionally covered by customs declarations as well as by bills of lading bearing false consignee addresses and false descriptions of contents. The bill of lading, suitably annotated, clears the captain of the ship with all foreign authorities on the trip out of the USSR and on the return.

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY Ev.	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC			
-------	---	------	---	----------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution indicated by "X" Field Distribution by "#")